

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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TAGS: PFOR, SW

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER ANDERSSON SAYS US HAS NEXT MOVE ON
AMBASSADOR QUESTION

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

SUMMARY: FORNMINISTER SVEN ANDERSSON SAYS IN NEWSPAPER
INTERVIEW HE HOPES US WILL SEND AMBASSADOR TO SWEDEN
THIS SPRING. BUT INITIATIVE LIES WITH USG, AND SWEDEN
WILL MAKE NO MOVE ON ITS OWN, ANDERSSON SAYS. END SUMMARY.

1. FORNMINISTER SVEN ANDERSSON WAS SUBJECT OF FULL-
PAGE TAKEOUT IN MARCH 10 ISSUE OF CONSERVATIVE NEWSPAPER
SYDSVENSKA DAGBLADET WHICH INCLUDED SOME DIRECT AND
INDIRECT QUOTES ON US-SWEDISH RELATIONS AND RELATED
MATTERS. FOLLOWING ARE RELEVANT QUOTATIONS FROM THE
ARTICLE.

2. ON RELATIONS WITH U.S.: "A HOT QUESTION FOR NEW
FORNMINISTER IS NATURALLY THAT OF EXCHANGE OF NEW
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AMBASSADORS BETWEEN U.S. AND SWEDEN. UP TO NOW U.S.,

WHICH ACCORDING TO SVEN ANDERSSON, 'HAS THE BALL,' HAS TAKEN NO INITIATIVE TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES. EVEN IF RELATIONS BETWEEN U.S. AND SWEDEN FUNCTION WELL OVERALL, IT IS, ACCORDING TO FORNMINISTER, AN ABNORMAL AND IN LONG RUN UNTENABLE SITUATION THAT THERE IS NO EXCHANGE OF AMBASSADORS. SITUATION HAS ATTRACTED INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION. SVEN ANDERSSON IS OPTIMISTIC. SOMETIME THIS SPRING HE HOPES NIXON WILL SEND AMBASSADOR HERE. BUT GOS WILL TAKE NO INITIATIVES - IT COULD BE SEEN AS A RETRACTION OF STATEMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE ABOUT AMERICAN WARFARE IN VEITNAM."

3. ON EDELSTAM CONTROVERSY: "TRUTH ABOUT CHILE HAD TO COME OUT,' SVEN ANDERSSON EXPLAINED. 'AND EDELSTAM WENT TO U.S. TO LAY OUT THE FACTS. SINCE HE HAD NO FACTS ABOUT USA'S PUTATIVE COOPERATION WITH CHILEAN JUNTA, THERE WAS NO OCCASION FOR HIM TO TOUCH THAT QUESTION..."

4. ON DIPLOMATS' FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION: "WE DON'T EXPECT OUR DIPLOMATS TO KEEP SILENT ALL THE TIME. WE TRUST THEIR JUDGMENT. THEIR TASK IS TO FOLLOW GOVERNMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS, AND THEY DO. BUT IF AN AMBASSADOR HAS A PERSONAL VIEW, WHICH DOES NOT DAMAGE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRY AND COUNTRY WHERE HE IS AMBASSADOR, NATURALLY HE MAY EXPRESS THAT VIEW. THAT IS WHY WE ALLOWED EDELSTAM TO TRAVEL TO U.S. AND TALK ABOUT CHILE - IT IS NOT USA HE TALKS ABOUT." END UNCLASSIFIED.

COMMENT: POLICY ANDERSSON VOICES IN PARA 4 ABOVE IS OBVIOUS ATTEMPT TO FEND OFF DOMESTIC CRITICISM OF GOVERNMENT FOR PUTTING A LID ON EDELSTAM IN HIS WASHINGTON APPEARANCE. IT SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY AS GOS POLICY. IF EVER A DIPLOMAT "DAMAGED RELATIONS" BETWEEN HIS COUNTRY AND HOST COUNTRY BY SOUNDING OFF PERSONALLY, IT WAS EDELSTAM IN CHILE.
OLSEN

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